



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Buffalo District

## Community Involvement Plan

Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program

Former Guterl Specialty Steel Corporation Site  
Lockport, New York

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, NY 14207  
May 2007

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Former Guterl Specialty Steel Corporation Site  
Lockport, New York

**Prepared by:**

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**Approved by:**

          /signed/            
Raymond L. Pilon  
Project Manager

29 May 2007  
Date

Community Involvement Plan  
Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program  
Former Guterl Specialty Steel Corporation Site  
Cleveland, Ohio

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## **Section 1.0: Overview of the Community Involvement Plan**

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is conducting a remedial investigation of the radiological conditions at the former Guterl Specialty Steel Site, Lockport, New York.

USACE, as the lead Federal agency for the Guterl Site, has prepared this Community Involvement Plan to facilitate communications and promote community involvement. This action is authorized by the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) and follows requirements provided under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) and to the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan, more commonly called the National Contingency Plan (NCP).

USACE encourages community involvement in the decision-making process. Activities outlined in this plan will help ensure that residents are informed and provided opportunities to be involved in the decision-making process required under CERCLA. Guidance for developing this plan was obtained from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's *Superfund Community Involvement Handbook*, April 2005 and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Engineer Pamphlet, *Public Participation in the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) for Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS)*, April 2004. Including this overview section, this plan contains four sections: Section 2 provides a capsule description of the former Guterl Specialty Steel Corporation Site, Section 3 provides background information about the community surrounding the site, Section 4 presents the community involvement program, and the Appendices provide a complete listing of resources available.

## **Section 2.0 Capsule Site Description**

### **2.1 Site History**

From 1948 to 1956, in addition to the production of steel and steel alloys, the Guterl Site was being operated by Simonds Saw and Steel Company, as a contractor and subcontractor for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to process radioactive materials, particularly uranium and thorium.

In 2001, USACE completed a Preliminary Assessment and Site Inspection report that recommended the Guterl Steel Site be included in the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP).

In 2004, USACE began expanded investigations of the Guterl site. Since that time, USACE conducted a two-day Technical Project Planning (TPP) Session (August 2005) attended by representatives from New York State, Niagara County and the City of Lockport. During the TPP session, historical information was discussed and specific project goals and objectives were established to help guide the scope of the remedial investigation.

USACE completed a Data Gap Analysis Report in 2005 and developed site specific work plans during 2006 (Site Safety & Health Plan and Gamma Walkover Survey Plan, Field Sampling Plan and Quality Assurance Plan). USACE is scheduled to begin field sampling and analysis activities in the summer of 2007.

## **2.2 Site Description/Location**

The former Guterl Specialty Steel Corporation Site is located in the City of Lockport, in Niagara County, New York. The approximate 70-acre site is bordered by Ohio Street to the east, residential and commercial properties to the north, Route 93 to the west, and the New York State Barge Canal to the south. The property is grouped into three areas: the 52-acre Allegheny Ludlum Corporation property, which includes four buildings that were constructed after the termination of AEC activities; the 9-acre landfill area, located in the northwest corner of the site; and the 9-acre excised property which includes nine buildings that existed during the AEC activities, located in the southeast corner of the site.

The site is located approximately one mile southeast of the west branch of Eighteen Mile Creek and 200 feet north of the northeast-southwest flowing Erie Barge Canal. The elevation of the Erie Barge Canal immediately south of the site fluctuates by several feet due to its downstream location from the Lockport locks, and its confluence with Tonawanda Creek. An active dolostone quarry is located approximately 0.1 miles southwest of the site. There is a low-lying seasonally wet area to the west and southwest of the landfill area.

The nearest residential areas are located about one quarter of a mile to the west and north. The figure on the next page identifies the location of the site.

The site's industrial use has destroyed much of the original ecological habitat on the site. Future land uses being considered for the site are light industrial/commercial purposes. Geologic features include an overburden layer that ranges from four to thirteen feet in depth before bedrock is reached. There are two federally listed threatened species in Niagara County, the bald eagle, *haliaeetus leucocephalus*, and the eastern prairie fringed orchid, *plantanthera leucophea*. The site is not within the limit of a 100-year floodplain. There is no evidence of any wetland delineation near the site.

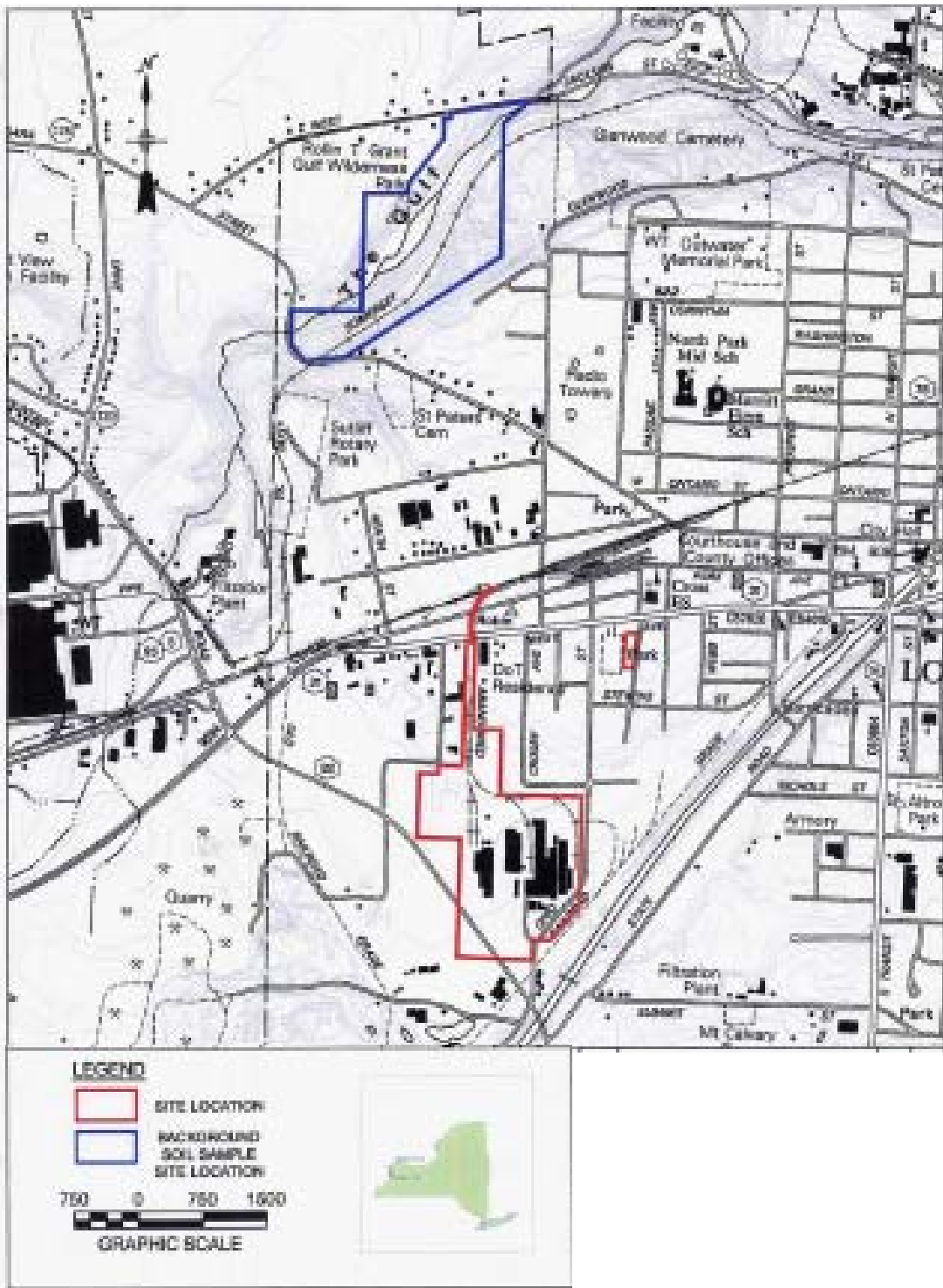
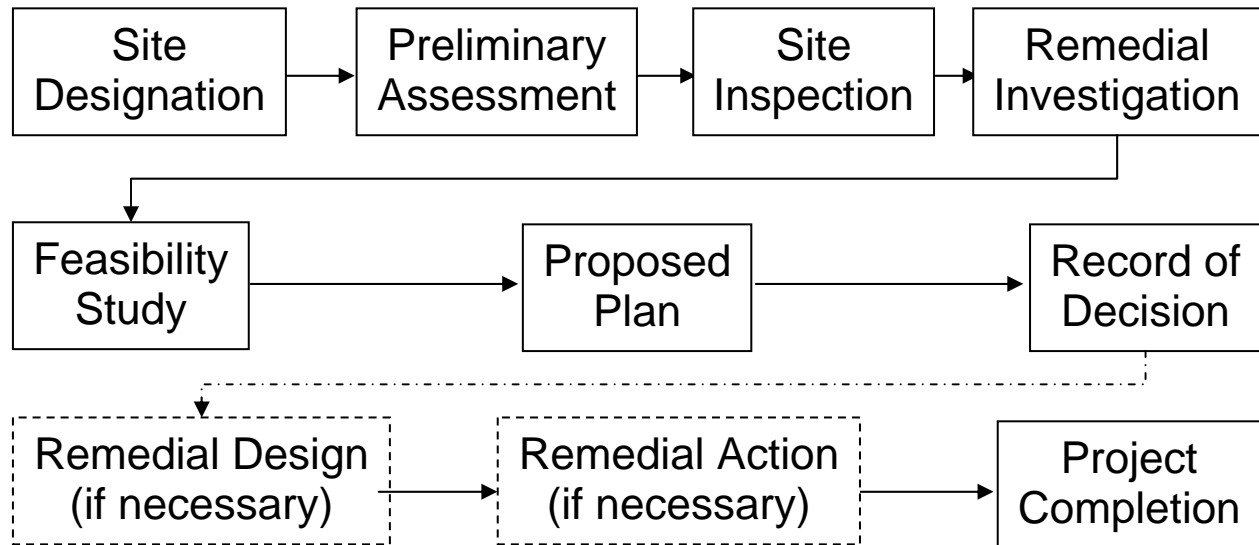


Figure 1: Site Location

### 2.3 Site Inspections and Cleanup Activities

The CERCLA process is outlined in the chart below.

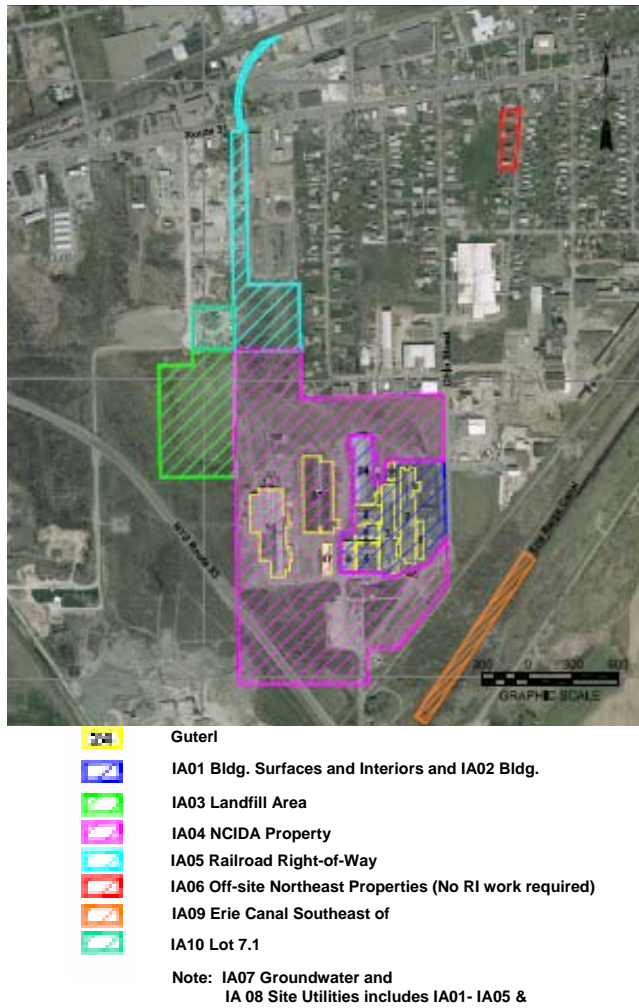


A removal action may be initiated at any time during the process if human health or the environment is in immediate danger.

The Corps is currently performing field sampling activities for the remedial investigation to identify and evaluate the extent of residual radioactive contamination (uranium and thorium) in surface soil, subsurface soil, groundwater, surface water, sediments (Erie Canal), buildings, and the landfill area. The site was divided into the investigative areas that are identified in the figure on the next page.

As funding is available, the Corps will move through the steps outlined in the CERCLA process.





**Figure 2: Investigative Areas**

## **Section 3.0 Community Background**

### **3.1 Community Profile**

The City of Lockport is the second largest city in Niagara County with a population of 22,279 indicated in the 2000 U.S. Census. The 2000 U.S. Census also indicates that there are almost 9,500 households with a median family income of \$44,614 in the city. The former Guterl Specialty Steel Corporation Site is located in the south eastern corner of the city.

The City of Lockport is governed by a Mayor that serves a four-year term. It also has a common council with a president and six aldermen. The Guterl Site is in the Third Ward of the City of Lockport.

The Lockport Public School System has an elementary school that is 2.4 miles from the site; and a high school that is 1.7 miles from the site. The Lockport Memorial Hospital is 2.8 miles from the site. The closest park, Altro Park, is within a mile from the site on South Transit Road. There are several shopping facilities within two miles of the neighborhood.

### **3.2 History of Community Involvement**

The Corps held two initial project information sessions for the site in March of 2001. Approximately 150 people attended each meeting. Community participants at these meetings were mostly local residents. Many participants had family members that had previously worked, or currently worked, at the site and were interested in the U.S. Department of Labor Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program. Community assessment questionnaires were distributed at the meetings. The following sections summarize community concerns and the Corps' community involvement plan actions.

### **3.3 Key Community Concerns**

The following concerns were identified during the community assessment interviews that were conducted:

- The nature and extent of contamination at the site and the development of cleanup criteria for the site that will be protective of public health and the environment.
- Health-related impacts from working in radiologically contaminated areas after AEC activities at the site.
- Health-related impacts due to living near the site including from drinking well water in the area for a long period of time.
- Eligibility for the worker's compensation program started by the Department of Energy, researched by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and administered by the Department of Labor.
- Being kept informed of the timeline for Corps investigations and activities at the site.
- Being provided with adequate and meaningful opportunities for involvement in the decision-making process.

### **3.4 Response to Community Concerns**

During the community assessment interviews conducted for the site, residents discussed the types of information they want to receive and the most effective ways for the Corps to communicate that information. Residents indicated that they want to be kept informed regarding current and proposed investigations and activities at the site, the impact of these activities on the surrounding community, and any potential impacts to health caused by conditions at the site.

### **3.5 Summary of Communication Needs**

The majority of those interviewed through the community assessments wanted information about site activities as it becomes available through either newsletters or information sessions. Responders were split between afternoon and evening as the best time for meetings.

## **Section 4.0 Community Involvement Plan**

### **4.1 Community Involvement Goals and Plan**

USACE is committed to informing and involving the public as it moves through the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act decision-making process and has established the following overall goals for the community involvement program. The Corps will:

- Foster and maintain a climate of understanding and trust,
- Ensure protection of human health and the environment,
- Encourage public participation during the decision-making process,
- Listen carefully to what the public is saying, and
- Identify and deal responsively with public concerns.

USACE will focus its community involvement efforts on obtaining public input on decision-making actions.

The following plan is based on responses received during community interviews and addresses each issue that was identified as being important to the community.

Issue 1: The nature and extent of contamination at the site and the development of cleanup criteria for the site that will be protective of public health and the environment.

Activity 1: Maintain documents in the Administrative Record and provide the public an opportunity to comment during decision-making activities.

- Objective: Provide sufficient information to explain the nature and extent of radiological contamination as it may impact human health and the environment.
- Method: Maintain documents in the Administrative Record and provide the public an opportunity to comment during decision-making activities.
- Timing: As required.

Issue 2: Health related impacts from contamination resulting from AEC activities at the site.

Activity 2: The Corps will continue to involve representatives of State and local agencies in the planning and review process for the site. Representatives from various agencies will be invited to participate during any public meetings or information sessions.

- Objective: Provide the public with accurate information regarding health related impacts.
- Method: Coordination with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Niagara County Department of Health representatives that are identified in Appendices B and C.
- Timing: As required.

Issue 3: Eligibility for the worker's compensation program started by the Department of Energy, researched by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and administered by the Department of Labor.

Activity 3: Referral of issues related to this subject with the Department of Labor.

- Objective: To provide the public with a resource for information regarding the compensation program.
- Method: Ms. Joanna Janik is the contact person for the New York Resource Center for the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program, 600 North Bailey, Suite 2A, Amherst, NY 14226, (716) 832-6200 or Toll free (800) 941-3943 for questions in regard to the program.
- Timing: As required.

Issue 4: Keeping the public informed of Corps activities.

Activity 4A: Designate the Project Manager as the Corps spokesperson and point of contact for questions related to site activities.

- Objective: Provide a single point of contact to ensure prompt, accurate, and consistent responses and information dissemination about the site.
- Method: Mr. Raymond Pilon is currently the Project Manager and will handle site inquiries and serve as a point of contact for community members.
- Timing: As required.

Activity 4B: Provide a toll-free “800 number” and an e-mail address for the community to contact the Corps.

- Objective: To enable citizens to get the latest information available when they want it rather than having to wait for a meeting or a fact sheet, and without incurring any cost.
- Method: The toll-free number and e-mail address will be included in any news releases, fact sheets and advertisements made that pertain to the site.
- Timing: Both the toll-free line, 1-800-833-6390 option 4, and the e-mail address, [fusrap@usace.army.mil](mailto:fusrap@usace.army.mil), are currently operational.

Activity 4C: Maintain a mailing list for the site.

- Objective: To facilitate the distribution of site-specific information to everyone who needs or wants to be kept informed about the site.
- Method: The Corps established a mailing list compiled of addresses based on respondents to community interviews and public information session sign-in sheets. The Corps also reviewed the Niagara County Tax Assessor’s database and added residences in the immediate area of the site to the mailing list.
- Timing: Maintain the mailing list on a continual basis.

Activity 4D: Establish and maintain the Administrative Record file for the site.

- Objective: To provide a convenient location where residents can go to read and copy official documents and other pertinent information about the site and Corps activities. The Administrative Record file will provide the public with a repository of documents, resources, etc. used by the Corps Project Delivery Team in reaching decisions about the site.
- Method: There are two sets of the Administrative Record File for the site. One is located in the Lockport Public Library, 23 East Avenue, Lockport, NY 14095. The other is located in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District Office, 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY 14207.

- Timing: Ongoing.

Activity 4E: Prepare and distribute site fact sheets, technical summaries and newsletters.

- Objective: To provide citizens with current, accurate, easy to read and understandable information about USACE activities.
- Method: Fact sheets/newsletters will be mailed to all parties on the site mailing list.
- Timing: The Corps will prepare and distribute fact sheets/newsletters as new information becomes available.

Activity 4F: Establish a website.

- Objective: To provide citizens with current, accurate, easy to read and understandable information about USACE activities
- Method: The Corps developed a website for the site at: <http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/guterl/index.htm>
- Timing: Ongoing

Issue 5: Provide adequate and meaningful opportunities for community involvement during decision-making activities.

Activity 5A: Hold public meetings.

- Objective: To update the community on the proposed plan and address community questions, concerns, ideas and comments.
- Method: Public meetings will be announced and held.
- Timing: As required.

Activity 5B: Solicit comments during a Public Comment Period.

- Objective: To give community members an opportunity to review and comment on any Proposed Plans for the site. This provides the citizens with meaningful involvement in the process and also provides the Site Team with valuable information for use in making decisions.
- Method: The Corps will announce each comment period separately. Announcements will appear in local newspapers. The announcements will include information on the duration of the comment period, how to submit comments, where to submit comments, etc. The Corps will solicit comments for any Proposed Plans.
- Timing: As required. (A comment period is required in conjunction with the release of any Proposed Plan and will last a minimum of 30 days.)

Activity 5C: Prepare and issue a Responsiveness Summary for the comments received during the release of any Proposed Plans with the Record of Decision.

- Objective: To summarize comments received during comment periods and to provide responses to major comments.
- Method: The Corps will prepare a Responsiveness Summary as a section of the Record of Decision. Both technical and non-technical information will be conveyed in a manner that is easily understood.

- Timing: The Corps will issue the Responsiveness Summary as part of the Record of Decision.

Activity 5D: Issue and maintain the Community Involvement Plan.

- Objective: To identify and address community needs, issues, or concerns regarding the site or the cleanup remedy.
- Method: The Community Involvement Plan will be placed in the Administrative Record. The plan will be revised as necessary based on input.
- Timing: The Corps will update the Community Involvement Plan as community concern warrants or at least every three years until the site is closed out.

#### **4.2 Projected Schedule for Community Involvement Activities**

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>TIMEFRAME</b>
1 and 4D Maintain the site Administrative Record	Locations for the Administrative Record are listed in Appendix I.
2 Designate New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Niagara County Department of Health Representatives	Representatives are listed in Appendices B and C
3 Designate U.S. Department of Labor Representative	Complete
4A Designate Corps Spokesperson	Complete
4B Provide a toll-free “800 number” and e-mail address for the community to contact the Corps	Currently in operation
4C Maintain a mailing list for the site	Ongoing
4E Prepare and distribute site fact sheets, technical summaries and newsletters	As needed
4F Establish website	Ongoing
5A Hold public meetings	As required
5B Solicit comments during a Public Comment Period	As required
5C Prepare and issue a Responsiveness Summary	Following public comment periods
5D Issue the Community Involvement Plan and revise the plan as necessary	Complete. Will be updated as needed, at least every three years

## **Appendix A**

### **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Contacts**

James Karsten, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, Special Projects Team Leader;  
1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, New York 14207; (716) 879-4245; Fax: (716) 879-4194.

Raymond Pilon, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, Project Manager; 1776 Niagara  
Street, Buffalo, New York 14207; (716) 879-4418; Fax: (716) 879-4194.

B. Thomas Kenna, P.E., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, Project Engineer; 1776  
Niagara Street, Buffalo, New York 14207; (716) 879-4345; Fax: (716) 879-4355.

Arleen Kreuzsch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, Outreach Program Specialist;  
1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, New York 14207; (716) 879-4438;  
Fax: (716) 879-6305; E-mail: [arleen.k.kreusch@usace.army.mil](mailto:arleen.k.kreusch@usace.army.mil)

## **Appendix B**

### Federal Elected Officials

#### **U. S. Senate**

Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, Buffalo/Western New York Office: United States Senator, Larkin at Exchange, 726 Exchange Street, Suite 511, Buffalo, NY 14210; (716) 854-9725; Fax: (716) 854-9731. Washington Office: United States Senate, 476 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510; (202) 224-4451; General Fax: (202) 228-0282; Scheduling Request Fax: (202) 228-0121.

Honorable Chuck Schumer, Buffalo Office: United States Senator, 130 South Elmwood Avenue #660, Buffalo, NY 14202; (716) 846-4111; Fax: 716-846-4113. Washington Office: 313 Hart Senate Building, Washington, DC 20510; (202) 224-6542; Fax: 202-228-3027.

#### **U. S. House of Representatives**

Honorable Thomas Reynolds, 26<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, District office: Representative in Congress, 26<sup>th</sup> District; 500 Essjay Road, Suite 260, Williamsville, New York; 14221; (716) 634-2324. Washington: 332 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515; (202) 225-5265.

Amy Moore, Office of Representative Thomas Reynolds, 500 Essjay, Suite 260, Williamsville, New York 14121; Phone (716) 634-2324.

### Federal Agency Contacts

#### **U. S. Department of Labor**

Dana Clausing, Portsmouth Resource Center, U. S. Department of Labor; 1200 Gay Street, Portsmouth, OH 45662; (740) 353-6933 or Toll free (866) 363-6993; Fax: (740) 353-4707.

#### **U. S. Environmental Protection Agency**

Administrator, USEPA Region 2, 290 Broadway, New York, New York 10007-1866



# Appendix C

## State Officials

### New York Elected State Officials

Honorable Eliot Spitzer, Governor of New York; State Capitol, Albany, NY 12224; (518) 474-8390.

Honorable George D. Maziarz, New York State Senator, 62nd Senatorial District, District Office: 2578 Niagara Falls Boulevard, Suite 600, Wheatfield, NY 14304; (716) 731-8740. Albany Office: Room 811, Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12247; (518) 455-2024.

State Assemblyman Mike W. Cole, 142<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District, District Office: 5763 Seneca Street, Elma, NY 14059; (716) 675-7170; e-mail: [colem@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:colem@assembly.state.ny.us). Albany Office: Legislative Office Building 545, Albany, NY 12248; (518) 455-4601.

### New York State Regulatory Contacts

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Barbara Youngberg, Division of Solid and Hazardous materials, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-7255; (518) 402-8579.

New York State Department of Health, Robert Snyder, Bureau of Environmental Radiation Protection, 547 River Street, Room 530, Troy, New York 12180-2216; (518) 402-7550; Fax: (518) 402-7554.

# Appendix D

## Local Contacts

### Niagara County

Honorable Clyde L. Burmaster, Chairman, Niagara County Legislature, 2512 Parker Road, Ransomville, NY 14131; (716) 791-3111; e-mail: [Clyde.Burmaster@niagaracounty.com](mailto:Clyde.Burmaster@niagaracounty.com).

Honorable Harry J. Apolito, Niagara County Legislature, 15<sup>th</sup> District, (716) 434-5144, 48 Woodbury Drive, Lockport, NY 14094; e-mail: [Harry.Apolito@niagaracounty.com](mailto:Harry.Apolito@niagaracounty.com).

Paul Dickey, Niagara County Health Department, 5467 Upper Mountain Road, Suite 100, Lockport, NY 14094; (716) 439-7595.

### City of Lockport

Lockport Municipal Building  
One Locks Plaza  
Lockport, NY 14094

**Mayor:** Michael Tucker, (716) 439-6665, Fax: (716) 439.6668.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Alderman** – Flora McKenzie, 199 West Avenue, Lockport, NY 14094, (716) 433-7781.

Norman Allen, Public Works Administrator, (716) 439-6750; [nallen@elockport.com](mailto:nallen@elockport.com)

## **Appendix E**

### Environmental and Active Citizen Groups

The Corps is unaware of any environmental citizen's action groups currently in the Lockport area.

## **Appendix F**

Adjacent Property Owners

### **Adjacent Property Owners**

Reg Buri, Allegany Ludlum, 695 Ohio Street, Lockport, NY 14094; (716) 439-5305.

# Appendix G

## Media Contacts

### Newspapers

#### Lockport Union Sun & Journal

170 East Avenue  
Lockport, NY 14094

Ads: Renee Simpson

(716) 282-2311, ext 2300; Fax: 282-1643; e-mail: [classesads@gnewspaper.com](mailto:classesads@gnewspaper.com) (pdf)

Column inches: 2-column 2.833; 3-column 4.292

Environmental Reporter: Joyce Miles, (716) 439-9222, ext 6245

E-mail: [milesj@gnewspaper.com](mailto:milesj@gnewspaper.com)

#### Buffalo News, Niagara Bureau

8353 Niagara Falls Boulevard  
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Ads: Marcy Lombardo

(716) 849-5535, Fax: (716) 949-3455; e-mail: [mlombardo@buffnews.com](mailto:mlombardo@buffnews.com) (pdf)

Column inches: 1-column 1.729; 2-column 3.558, 3-column"

Tear Sheets: (716) 849-5453

Env. Reporter: Tom Prohaska

(716) 283-7487 or (716) 433-4722; Fax: (716) 283-1691

### Television

WGRZ-TV (channel 2)

Assignment Editor: Maria Sisti

259 Delaware Ave.

Buffalo, NY 14202

(716) 849-2222 (Switchboard), (716) 849-2200 (Direct); Fax: (716) 849-7602

WIVB-TV (channel 4) and WNLO (channel 23)

Assignment Editor: Russ Barbera

2077 Elmwood Ave.

Buffalo, NY 14207

(716) 876-7333; Fax: (716) 874-8173

WKBW-TV

Assignment Editor: Bill McCarthy

7 Broadcast Plaza

Buffalo, NY 14202

(716) 845-6100; Fax: (716) 856-8784

**Television (Continued)**

Lockport Community TV

Attn: Community Bulletin Board (Rich)

293 Niagara

Lockport, NY 14094

One month in advance e-mail to: [rzapp@lctv.net](mailto:rzapp@lctv.net) (word document, pictures - jpg file)

(716) 434-1733; Fax: (716) 434-2837

**Radio**

WLVL Radio

News Director: Doug Young

P.O. Box 977

Lockport, NY 14095

(716) 433-5944; Fax: (716) 433-6588

# **Appendix H**

## **Meeting Locations**

South Lockport Fire Company - Recreation Hall corner of Ruhlman Road & South Transit Road,  
Lockport, NY 14094; Contact Ed Briggs (716) 434-4626.

Holiday Inn - 515 South Transit Road, Lockport, NY, 14094; Contact: Don Marien, (716) 434-6151.

# Appendix I

## Repository Locations

**Lockport Public Library**, 23 East Avenue, Lockport, NY 14095.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, FUSRAP Public Information Center**, 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, New York 14207, (716) 879-4438.